

REMARKS

Cancel claim 11. Claims 1-10 and 12-17 remain for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

The objections and rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

1-3. Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 12-16 currently stand rejected for allegedly being obvious in view of the combined subject matter disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,867,484 to Shaunfield (hereinafter “Shaunfield”) and U.S. Patent 6,310,848 to Ueki (hereinafter “Ueki”).

Claim 1

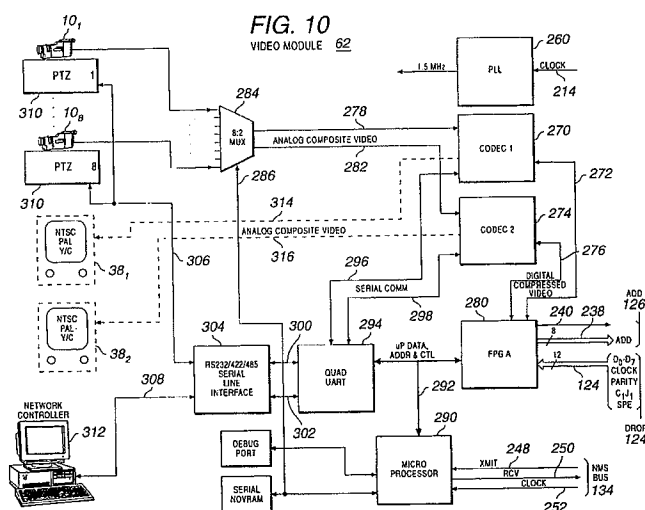
Claim 1 recites a local network having a ring network configuration with a plurality of subscribers each connected within the ring network by a data line to transmit and receive data therebetween. The local network includes:

- “a first subscriber configured as a data source that transmits compressed audio and video data onto the ring network;
- a second subscriber that receives decompressed audio data;
- a third subscriber that receives decompressed video data,
- a fourth subscriber that includes
 - (i) a bit stream decoder that decodes the compressed audio and video data and provides decompressed audio and video data;
 - (ii) a separation stage that receives the decompressed audio and video data and separates the decompressed audio and video data to provide the decompressed audio data signal and the decompressed video data signal; and
 - (iii) a control unit that controls the transmission of the decompressed audio data signal and the decompressed video data signal onto the ring network.” (cl. 1).

The Official Action contends that Shaunfield discloses all of the features of claim 1, “*but fails to specifically teach a separating stage that receives said decompressed data and separates audio*

and video data within said compressed data to provide a decompressed video data signal and a decompressed audio data signal.” (Official Action, pg. 3). The Official Action contends that “*in analogous art, ‘848 (i.e., Ueki) teaches a recording/reproducing apparatus that includes a decompressing circuit with an A/V decoder for decompressing the audio/video data. The apparatus also includes a separation circuit that separates the decompressed data into audio and video signals (col. 6, lines 61-67).*” (Official Action, pgs. 3-4). The Official Action concludes that “*it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of ‘484 to include a separation state for separating the decompressed audio data from the decompressed video data in order to supply the video data to a display device, i.e. a monitor, and the audio data to a audio reproducing device, i.e. a speaker (col. 6, line 64-col. 7, line 4).*” (Official Action, pg. 4).

In response to the Amendment filed by the applicant, the current Official Action alleges that Shaunfield inherently disclosed that the video cameras provide compressed video and audio (see Official Action, pg. 2, Response to Arguments section). However, it is respectfully submitted that this contention is contrary to the fair and proper teaching of Shaunfield. Specifically, FIG. 10 of Shaunfield, reproduced below, illustrates that the cameras provide “analog composite video” on lines 278, 282.



As known in the art, “analog composite video” (aka a CVBS signal) is the format of an analog television signal (picture only) before it is combined with a sound signal and modulated onto an RF carrier. In addition, the express language of Shaunfield makes it clear that the composite video does not include audio. Specifically, Shaunfield states: “[e]ach video module includes a first codec 270 coupled to a first serial video channel 272.... [t]he codecs are of conventional design, but without provisions for processing voice analog signals.” (emphasis added, col. 21, lines 55-61). Hence, from the known definition of the composite video, and Shaunfield’s express teaching that the codec do not process audio, it is clear that Shaunfield fails to teach “a first subscriber configured as a data source that transmits compressed audio and video data onto the ring network” (cl. 1). As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Shaunfield and Ueki are incapable of rendering claim 1 obvious.

Claim 9

Claim 9 currently stands rejected in the Official Action for the same reasons as claim 1, and the arguments presented hereinabove with respect to the patentability of claim 1 are applicable to claim 9. As a result, it is submitted that the obviousness rejection of claim 9 should be removed, and that claim 9 is in condition for allowance and should be passed to issuance.

Claim 16

Claim 16 currently stands rejected in the Official Action for the same reasons as claim 1, and the arguments presented hereinabove with respect to the patentability of claim 1 are applicable to claim 16. As a result, it is submitted that the obviousness rejection of claim 16 should be removed, and that claim 16 is in condition for allowance and should be passed to issuance.

4. Claim 6 currently stands rejected for allegedly being obvious in view of the combined subject matter disclosed in Shaunfield and U.S. Patent 5,544,161 to Bigham (hereinafter "Bigham").

It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is moot since claim 1 is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

5. Claims 11 and 17 currently stand rejected for allegedly being obvious in view of the combined teachings of Bigham and Steigler.

Claim 11 has been cancelled.

Claim 17 includes “a first subscriber configured as a data source that transmits compressed audio and video data onto the ring network;”. (cl. 1). The Official Action alleges that this claim feature reads on element 216 of Bigham. This allegation is technically incorrect, since element 216 as in Bigham is a network interface module (NIM) that simply receives information from the network interface device (NID) 214 (see FIG. 5 of Bigham). There is no disclosure in Bigham of the NIM 216 providing compressed audio and video data onto the ring network. The NIM is associated with a sink device, not a data source as claimed. Accordingly, assuming for the moment without admitting that Bigham and Steigler are properly combinable, the resultant combination is still incapable of rendering claim 17 obvious.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-10 and 12-17 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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